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Food and Home Notes

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On the popularity scale....White pan bread is the type most commonly sold in the United States according to U.S. Department of Agriculture reports.

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The sharp rise of the price of sugar back in 1974 increased the costs of the production of bread.

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Did you know that approximately 35% of Maine's potato crop is shipped fresh?

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What is bread processing? It means the actual making, baking, slicing, and wrapping of the bread.

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Processing costs about 1/3rd the retail price of a can of tomatoes, margarine and bread--but less than 15% of the price of beef, pork, broilers, eggs, and milk which are changed relatively little after they leave the farm.

* * *

Food transportation costs were highest for fruits and vegetables, accounting for 10 to 15% of the retail price of potatoes and California lettuce and oranges.

LOOK TOWARDS 1977--NEW FOOD SURVEY PLANNED

The most comprehensive nationwide food consumption survey ever scheduled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture is set to start in April 1977. Data collectors will visit 15,000 households in one year. Two supplemental surveys will be scheduled --one includes Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico and the other includes 5,000 households where elderly people live.

Information from these surveys will be used in nutrition and educational programs, and are the principal statistical base for developing national food and nutrition policies. This will be the sixth nationwide food consumption survey by USDA; others were made in 1935-36, 1942, 1948, 1955, and 1965-66. The Consumer and Food Economics Institute of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, in Hyattsville, Md. will evaluate the data and make it available to a variety of users.

"Substantial changes in food consumption have taken place since the last survey in 1965-66," Dr. Robert L. Rizek, chairman of the CFE Institute, said. "For example, changes have resulted from greater availability of prepared foods and ethnic and natural foods as well as from changes in both absolute and relative price levels. (See Survey, page 2)

SURVEY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"Many foods have been modified to meet weight, health, and geriatric interests. However, we don't know specifically whose diets have been affected or whether the changes are desirable.

"The supplemental survey of elderly persons is needed because the conventional nationwide survey of 15,000 households will not provide adequate information for analysis of Federal programs for the elderly or for determining nutritional quality of their diet," he said. "Many elderly may have such poor diets that their health is affected. Better data are needed as a basis for educational or aid programs to alleviate these problems."

Other governmental agencies providing for funds for the survey are the Administration on Aging, Social Security Administration and the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health, Education and Welfare; the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, and USDA's Food and Nutrition Service.

A commercial firm under contract with the Agricultural Research Service and the National Analyst Division of Booz, Allen and Hamilton, Inc., Philadelphia, Pa., will do the actual data collection. Dr. Lucy Wilson is the contractor's representative and project letter and Dr. Robert L. Rizek, CFEI chairman, is the USDA/ARS representative.

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IT'S POPCORN TIME

Indiana and Nebraska--the two states with claim to planting the largest percentage of popcorn in 1976--lay claim to nearly half the 1976 acreage, according to a recent report by USDA. Even though U.S. farmers planted less popcorn acreage this year, compared with 1975's record level, munchers need not worry that there might be too little of the snack to go around. Total popcorn production won't be tallied until January 1977, but--it's expected to be the second largest on record.

VISIT THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

Back in 1910, the U.S. Department of Agriculture established the Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland, 15 miles Northwest of Washington, D.C. Since that time it has become the leading and most diversified agricultural research complex in the world.

More than 20,000 visitors tour the research facilities each year from all parts of the world. Research is conducted in nine Institutes, each concerned with one or more areas of study. There are 64 laboratories within these Institutes.

The center covers 5,000 acres and is divided into experimental pastures, orchards and gardens, fields and woods with greenhouse barns, and poultry houses. There are nearly 4,000 large animals, beef, and dairy cattle, hogs, sheep, plus 6,000 chickens and turkeys and 3,000 small research animals. Research is conducted on dairy products, nutrition, meat science and meat poultry inspection. Scientists also seek new knowledge in crop and livestock production, agricultural engineerings, and plant and animal diseases.

Visitors to the center have included foreign and domestic scientists, teachers, college, elementary and secondary students, agriculturists, agribusinessmen, Congressmen and their constituents. The center is open to visitors during regular work hours--Monday through Friday from 8 to 4:40 p.m. and special tours may be arranged for groups. Tours conducted by staff members may be arranged in advance by appointment by calling 301-344-2483 or by writing to the Visitors Center, USDA/Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md. Self-guided tours of the East side of the Center were initiated this year--and in near future a planned self-guide tour will be available for the West side of the Center.



Ashe County, North Carolina

1929

Delivering milk to truck
on milk route.

CEN 134



Box Elder County, Utah

1933

4-H Club member weighing
turkeys.

BN 44435

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